



Congressman Jon Porter

Monthly Update

March 2004

Porter Report – Monthly Update



As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent the Third Congressional District, one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

This past month I have been busy working on several issues important to our state, including continuing our fight against Yucca Mountain and working to ensure the safety of those who use our nation's airlines to travel across the country and

throughout the world. I have also been active in fighting for the rights of veterans here in Nevada by working to secure a veterans hospital in Las Vegas to provide the services they deserve.

Congress to Hold Hearings On Impact Of Nuclear Waste Transport By Rail



Congressman Porter is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

As a Member of Congress, one of my highest priorities is our fight against the proposed nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Vice Chairmen of the Railroads Subcommittee, I was able to secure a Congressional oversight hearing on the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. The hearing will be held March 5 in Las Vegas.

Among my many concerns, I am deeply troubled that the Department of

Energy has acted before Nevada's legal challenge to Yucca Mountain has concluded. There are many unanswered questions regarding the safety of nuclear traffic passing through the many states on the proposed rail route. I believe the possibility of train derailments or other mishaps, as well as our ability to respond to such accidents, must be addressed.

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Upon learning last December of the Department of Energy's proposed nuclear waste transportation route and their choice to move waste by rail, I immediately requested Congressional hearings on the matter. I contacted Congressman Don Young (R-AK), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Congressman Jack Quinn (R-NY), Chairman of the Railroads Subcommittee, and both members agreed to conduct a hearing on the impact of the proposed transportation route in Nevada.

I am proud to play a role in this very important oversight hearing. I look forward to examining this issue and highlighting the concerns we share as Nevadans regarding the transportation of nuclear waste through our state.

Porter Subcommittee Holds Hearings on Aviation Security and Baggage Screening



Congressman Porter's Aviation Subcommittee has jurisdiction over all aspects of civil aviation

Every year more than twenty million people arrive in Las Vegas by air. The entire economy of Nevada's Third Congressional District and our state is driven by keeping air links with the rest of the country open. After New York and Washington, DC, no city was more affected than Las Vegas after the September 11, 2001 attack on our nation. We cannot afford another 9/11, nor the perception that another attack is possible. Keeping the flying public safe, and keeping the public confident of our ability to keep them secure, is essential.

On February 12, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation subcommittee held hearings on Capitol Hill regarding aviation security

and baggage screening. As a member of this Subcommittee, I was an active participant in the hearing. In addition, Mr. Randall Walker, the Director of Aviation for Clark County (McCarran International Airport), served as a witness and testified before the committee.

The hearing was titled "Aviation Security: Progress and Problems in Passenger and Baggage Screening." In addition to testimony from Mr. Walker, the Subcommittee heard from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the General Accounting Office (GAO), and industry representatives to provide an update on the status of airline passenger and baggage screening efforts, with a focus on checkpoint and technology deployment issues.

It is vital that we continue to work to ensure that security at our nation's airports is of the highest quality while providing for airline passengers to travel across our country. As a member of the Aviation Subcommittee, I intend to continue to work on this important issue and follow through on the commitments TSA made to improve outreach to our community and the travel and tourism industry.

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Asian Chamber of Commerce Selects Porter As Elected Official Of The Year



Recently I was honored to learn that the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce selected me as the recipient of their *Elected Official of the Year Award* at the 2004 Asian Community achievement Awards Dinner.

James Wu, President of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, commented "Congressman Porter grew up in a family business and worked as an independent businessman before seeking elected office. His background has provided him with an

insight to the needs and concerns of the small business person, and one of the Asian Chamber's primary goals is to support Asian American small businesses. Additionally, Congressman Porter remains committed to improving education, an area of great importance to Asian Americans. We are proud to recognize him this year, and look forward to working with him in the future."

I was grateful for this honor from the Asian Chamber. I have tremendous respect for the Asian culture and families in our community. I appreciate what the Chamber has done to address important business issues and to help increase opportunities for their members to support small businesses in Southern Nevada. I congratulate Chairman Young, President James Yu, and the entire Board of Directors for their hard work and wish them the best of luck in the coming year.

Porter Praises VA Commitment For New Veterans Hospital In Las Vegas



On February 20, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Commission on Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) released its final report on the status of VA facilities.

I was encouraged by the release of the CARES report which provides a commitment to ensure that the health needs of Nevada's

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veterans are met. Nevada has one of the fastest growing veteran populations in the country, with more than 240,000 veterans currently living in our state. It is imperative that we have the facilities to provide for them.

I have worked diligently with our entire Congressional delegation since the start of my service in Congress to see a Veterans Hospital in Las Vegas become a reality. The release of the CARES report brought news of a promise for a full service medical facility for our veterans that is long overdue. We can never do

enough for those who have sacrificed to defend our nation.



I look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, and with the rest of Nevada's Congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of our veterans are met and that Las Vegas receives the Veterans Hospital we have been working so hard to acquire.

Contact Me

Should you require any additional information, if you would like to inform me of your views, or if you require assistance with your interactions with the Federal Government, please contact me anytime in either my Henderson, NV or Washington, DC office. You can also find information available online at www.house.gov/Porter.